

TOP SECRET

DATE April 6, 1955

COPY NO.

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

Washington, D.C.

PROGRESS REPORT ON NSC 5428 (NEAR EAST)

REFERENCE:

Memo from Executive Secretary, NSC,
dated May 12, 1954.

OCB FILE NO.

58

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WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, U.S.C., the transmission or revelations of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

May 10, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: Progress Report on NSC 5428 (Near East)

The attached Operations Coordinating Board Progress Report on NSC 5428, "United States Objectives and Policies with Respect to the Near East," dated April 6, 1955, was noted by the National Security Council on May 5, 1955, Action No. 1394. The Council agreed, and the President approved, that a review by the NSC Planning Board of the policies set forth in NSC 5428 should await the advice of the Secretary of State as to timing.

This approved paper reflects the change made at the Board meeting on April 6 in paragraph 6.e., [REDACTED]

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The previous draft of this report, dated April 4, 1955, is obsolete and may be destroyed in accordance with the security regulations of your agency.

Elmer B. Staats

Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Attachment:

Executive Officer, OCB, Memo
to Executive Secretary, NSC
subject as above, dated 4/7/55,
with attachment as listed.

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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

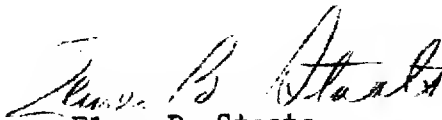
April 7, 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR:
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Progress Report on NSC 5428 (Near East)

The attached Progress Report by the Operations Coordinating Board on NSC 5428, "United States Objectives and Policies with Respect to the Near East," covering the period from July 1, 1954 through April 6, 1955, was concurred in by the Board on April 6, 1955 for transmission to the National Security Council.


Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Attachment:

Progress Report on NSC 5428
(Near East), dated 4/6/55

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April 6, 1955

PROGRESS REPORT ON NSC 5428

"UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES WITH RESPECT
TO THE NEAR EAST"

(Policy Approved by the President July 23, 1954)

(Period of Report: July 1, 1954 thru April 6, 1955)

A. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

Major actions, and major developments to which the U.S. by its actions contributed included the following:

1. Settlement of the Suez Base Dispute.

A settlement of the Anglo-Egyptian dispute over the British base at Suez was reached on October 19, 1954. The U.S. Government played an effective mediatory role in bringing about a settlement of this dispute, which had for years inflamed Egyptian opinion against the West, and impeded the development of closer relations between the West and the Arab world as a whole.

2. Turkey-Iraq Defense Pact.

Efforts to encourage the development of closer ties between Turkey and certain Arab states, particularly Iraq, culminated in the conclusion of a defense pact between Turkey and Iraq on February 24, 1955. With this development, based on the common need for defense against the danger of Soviet aggression, the politico-military climate has become more favorable for the development of a regional defense organization in which the U.S. and the U.K., as well as Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and possibly other Arab states could eventually participate.

3. Middle East Defense Planning.

Secret U.S.-U.K.-Turkey and U.S.-U.K. military planning discussions on Middle East Defense commenced on January 18, 1955, with CINCNELM as the JCS representative. Tripartite phase was concluded on February 21, 1955. Pakistan and other area countries were not invited to participate in order to avoid the political aspects of area defense in these meetings.

4. The Onassis Agreement.

The United States strongly supported Aramco in opposing the

Onassis agreement, which would give Onassis a virtual monopoly in the transport of Saudi oil at preferential rates.

B. EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING NSC POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

5. In the light of operating experience, the policy objectives set forth in NSC 5428 remain valid. However, the necessity for an early decision as to the extent of U.S. participation in defense of the area, the increasing split between Iraq and Egypt and the possible breakdown of the Arab League may necessitate policy reappraisal.

C. EMERGING PROBLEMS AND FUTURE ACTIONS

6. Difficulties in Organizing Middle East Defense.

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